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EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANTS PROGRAM

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ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

1996 EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANTS PROGRAM

The Emergency Shelter Grants Program (ESGP) is designed to help improve the quality of existing emergency shelters for the homeless, to help make available additional emergency shelters, to help meet the cost of operating emergency shelters and to provide certain essential social services to homeless individuals in order to provide access to not only safe and sanitary shelter, but also to the supportive services and other kinds of assistance needed to improve their situations. The program is also intended to restrict the increase of homelessness through the funding of preventive programs and activities.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Under this program, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has been authorized by Congress to provide these funds. As a result, the Department of Commerce and Community Affairs (DCCA) anticipates a funding allocation which will be made available to units of general local government on behalf of not-for-profit organizations providing homeless assistance, and/or directly to not-for-profit organizations located ***outside the corporate limits of the City of Chicago and Cook County.*** A not-for-profit organization is defined as a secular or religious organization described in Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, making it exempt from taxation, assuring it has an accounting system and voluntary governing board, and practices non-discrimination in the provision of services.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

Emergency Shelter Grants Program funds may be used to implement one or more of the following activities:

Rehabilitation, renovation or conversion of buildings for use as emergency shelters — These activities can include, but are not limited to, expenses for labor, materials, tools and other associated costs of building improvements such as the replacement of principal fixtures, installation of security or handicapped access devices, and alterations designed to improve energy efficiency.

New or expanded essential services — These activities must be provided in connection with such direct services by the shelter as job training, substance abuse counseling, health and educational services, or mileage expenses related to the provision of shelter services.

Homeless Prevention — These activities or programs must be designed to prevent the incidence of homelessness, such as short-term subsidies to defray rent and utility arrearages for families that have received eviction or utility termination notices, security deposits or first month's rent, or other innovative programs and activities designed to prevent homelessness.

Operation or maintenance expenses directly related to the operation of the shelter — These activities can include costs for the purchase of shelter supplies, equipment and furnishings, insurance premiums, utility payments, and overall maintenance costs such as minor repairs or painting. Additionally, a small percentage of ESGP funds may be used to pay staff costs related to the operation of the emergency shelter.

AVAILABLE FUNDING

All proposals received will undergo a ***highly-competitive*** review. Priority for funding will be given to projects which clearly complement existing homeless activities, demonstrate the ability to utilize program funds immediately and address a clear need for funds. ***The minimum grant award will be $10,000, the maximum grant award will be $75,000.*** Proposals will be funded based upon negotiations and will be subject to the availability of funds from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. It should be noted that each recipient of grant funds must supplement ESGP funds, or demonstrate an attempt to supplement funds, with an equal amount of funds from other sources.

FOR MORE INFORMATION . . .

A Request For Proposal will be sent to your organization upon receipt of the attached request card. Your card should be returned by January 1, 1996.

For more information about the Emergency Shelter Grants Program please contact:

Lou Ann Ladage
Illinois Department of
Commerce & Community Affairs
620 East Adams
Springfield, Illinois 62701

217/785-6154
800/785-6055 (TDD)

(Clip and Mail)

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Please send the Emergency Shelter Grants Program Request to:

Name _____

Title _____

Address _____
Street

_____
City State Zip Code

Phone No. ( ) _____

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